

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

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FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 198

CONFIDENTIAL USUN 3923

EXDIS

CORRECTED COPY (PARA 1 LINE 4; LAST FOUR WORDS)

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: ME UN
SUBJ- UNTSO REPORT

ASST SYG URQUHART THIS MORNING READ TO AMB. BENNETT PORTIONS OF LATEST REPORT FROM UNTSO HEADQUARTERS JERUSALEM, ASKING THAT INFO BE CONSIDERED PRIVILEGED IN VIEW NECESSITY UN SECRETARIAT NOT APPEAR BE PLAYING CLOSER TO ONE SIDE THAN OTHER. REPORT FROM UNTSO AS FOLLOWS:
FIGHTING STILL VERY HEAVY IN SYRIA. ISRAELIS HAVE ADVANCED SOME SIX MILES FURTHER DOWN DAMASCUS ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 16 MILES FROM CITY. IT HAS BEEN HARD GOING ALL THE WAY.
SYRIAN ARTILLERY AND AIR ATTACKS HAVE BEEN INTENSE AND AT TIMES HAVE SUCCEEDED IN STOPPING ISRAELIS. THERE HAVE BEEN STRONG, SUCCESSIVE SYRIAN POSITIONS TO OVERCOME. SYRIAN COURAGE AND TENACITY HAVE SURPRISED ALL CONCERNED, INCLUDING ISRAELIS. JORDAN'S ENTRY HAS HAD NO EFFECT ON BATTLE THUS FAR ALTHOUGH UNTSO VIEWS IT AS CONSTRICTING ISRAELI OPTIONS. URGUARD SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM OR DENY ISRAELI CLAIMS OF SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS AGAINST IRAQI FORCE NE OF DAMASCUS.

ON SINAI FRONT THERE HAVE BEEN STRONG ATTACKS, EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN CONSOLIDATING THEIR POSITIONS ON EAST BANK AND CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVE BEEN PUSHING OUT "SOMEWHAT" ALONG MITLA PASS ROAD.

UNTSO REPORTS EQUIPMENT LOSS RATIOS IN ISRAEL'S FAVOR AT 2 TO 1 IN AIRCRAFT AND 3 TO 2 IN TANKS AND CONSIDERS THESE

FIGURES DISCOURAGING TO ISRAEL IN VIEW ISRAELI INFERIORITY
IN STARTING INVENTORY. ISRAELI LOSSES HAVE COME IN
MAIN FROM SOVIET - SUPPLIED AA AND ANTI-TANK WEAPONS - LATTER
A SIMPLE MECHANISM WHICH IS LARGELY ROBOT - CONTROLLED AND REQUIRES
LITTLE TRAINING TO OPERATE.

IN UNTSO'S VIEW NEITHER SIDE IS YET SUFFERING SERIOUS
PRESSURES AS REGARDS EITHER MANPOWER OR EQUIPMENT.
UNTSO ESTIMATES "A FEW MORE DAYS" BEFORE EITHER SIDE WILL
SHOW FATIGUE.

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